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(54) **DELIVERING CALLS TO GSM
SUBSCRIBERS ROAMING TO CDMA
NETWORKS VIA IP TUNNELS**

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H04Q 7/20; H04L 12/28; H04L 12/66

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370/352; 455/422; 455/432; 455/433; 455/435

(58) Field of Search 455/406, 407,
455/422, 432, 433, 435, 436, 445, 408;
370/338, 340, 401, 351, 352, 465, 468,
332

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Method and system integrating wireless/wireline and circuit/packet networks (to bypass GSM Memorandum of Understandings) for cellular/PCS services so that GSM subscribers roaming into CDMA networks can be provided with basic call delivery cellular services as long as the roamers can pay the bill with their valid credit card. This is achieved by integrating wireless and wireline networks as well as circuit and packet networks, using IP networks and protocols as an alternative to the existing telephony-based approach.

25 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

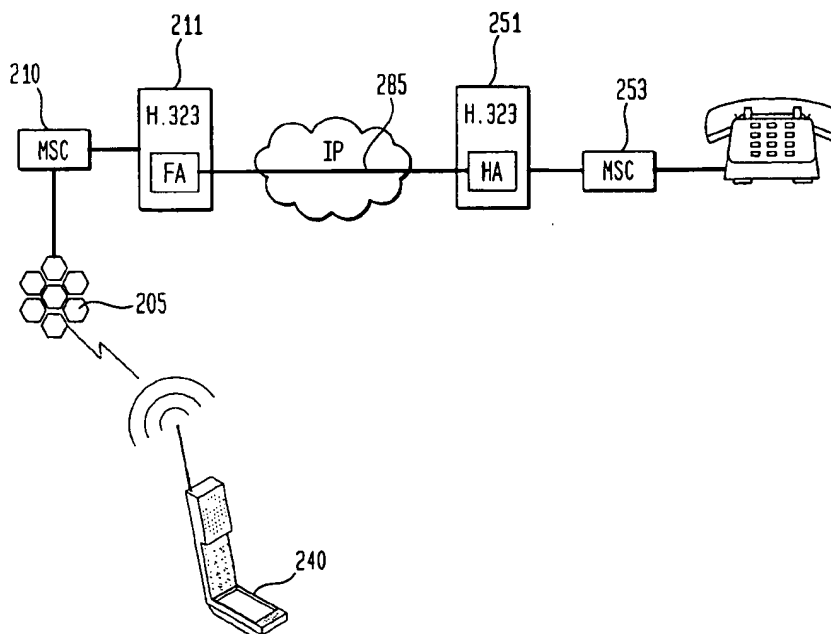


FIG. 1

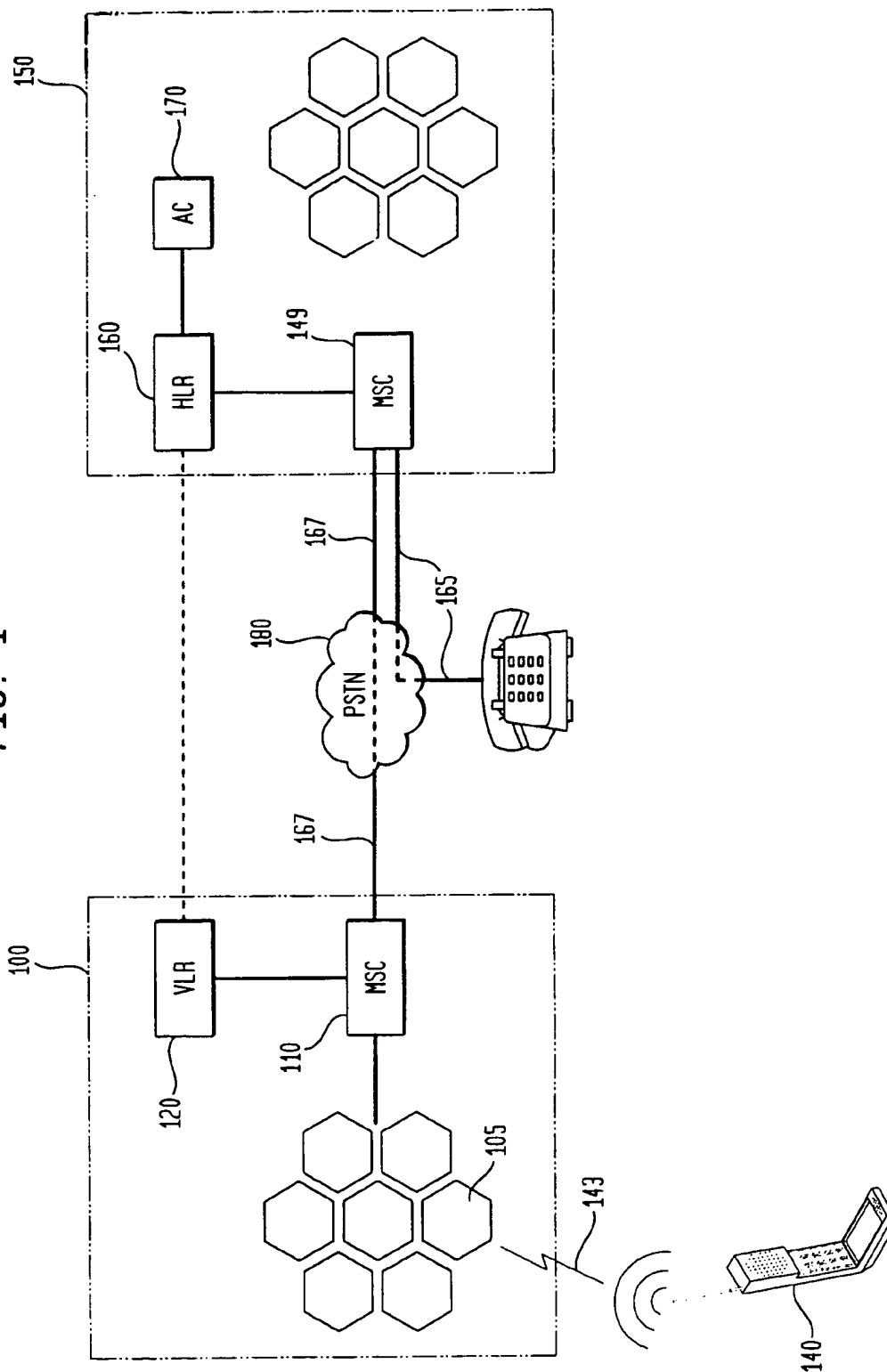


FIG. 2

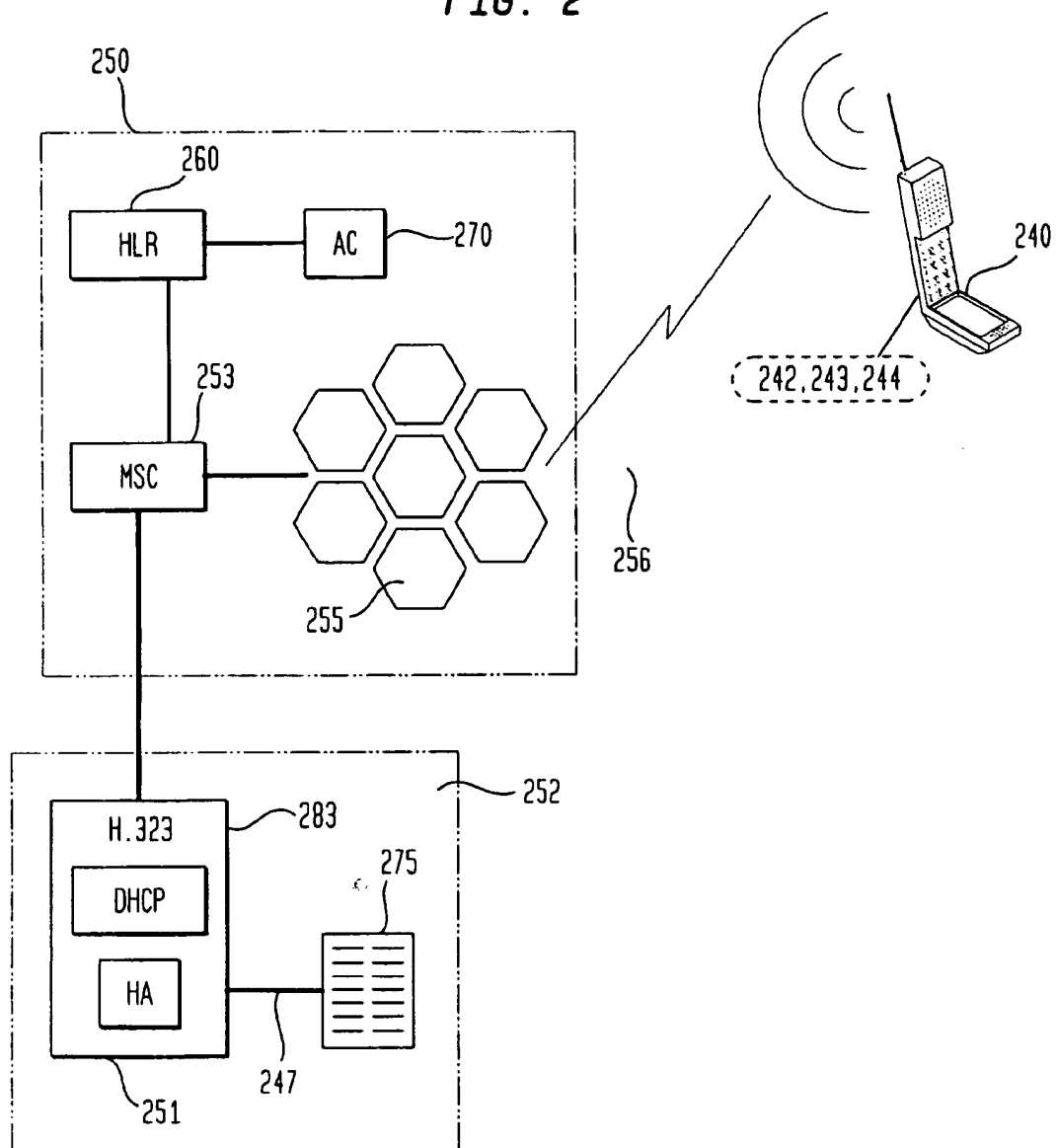


FIG. 3

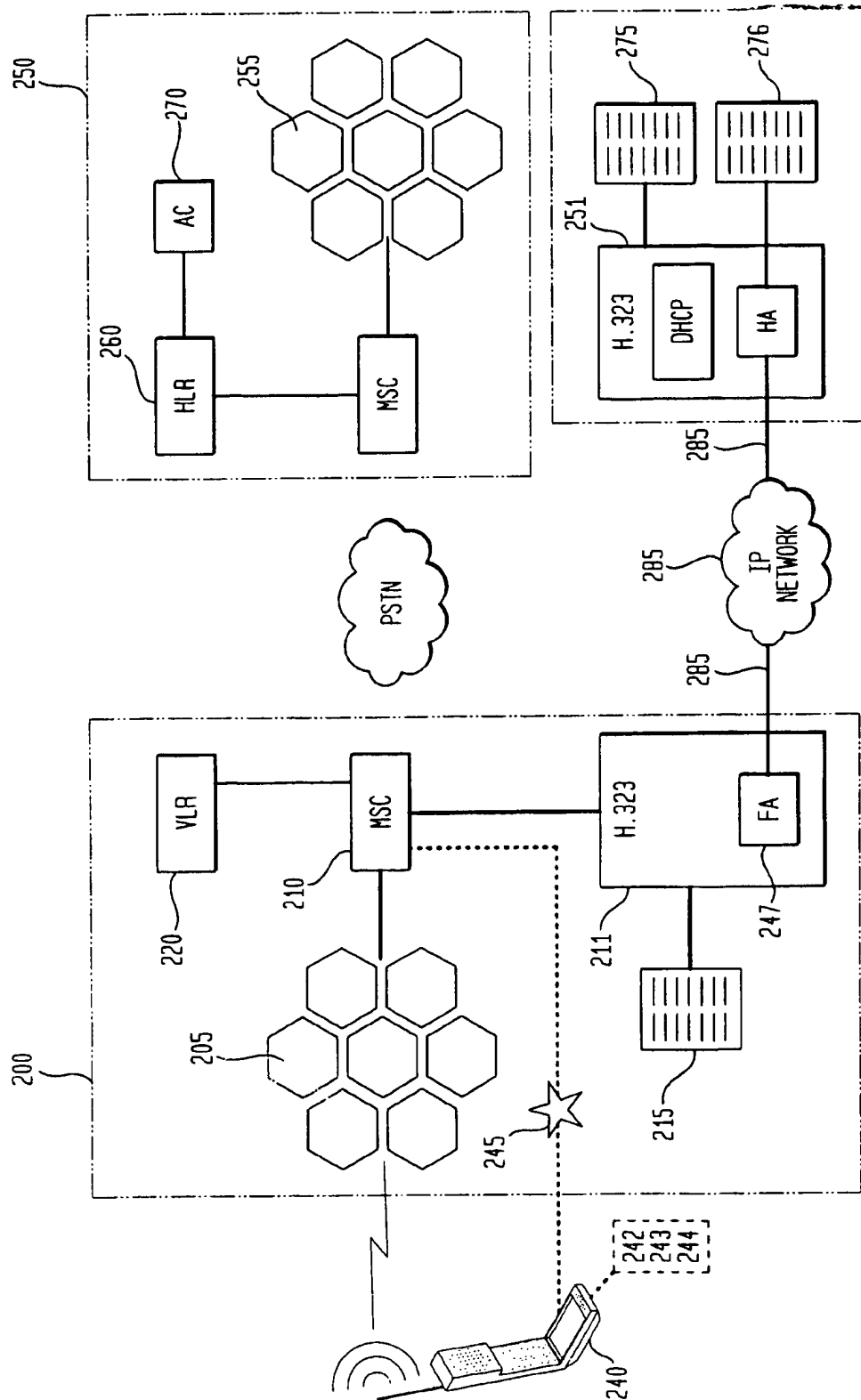


FIG. 4

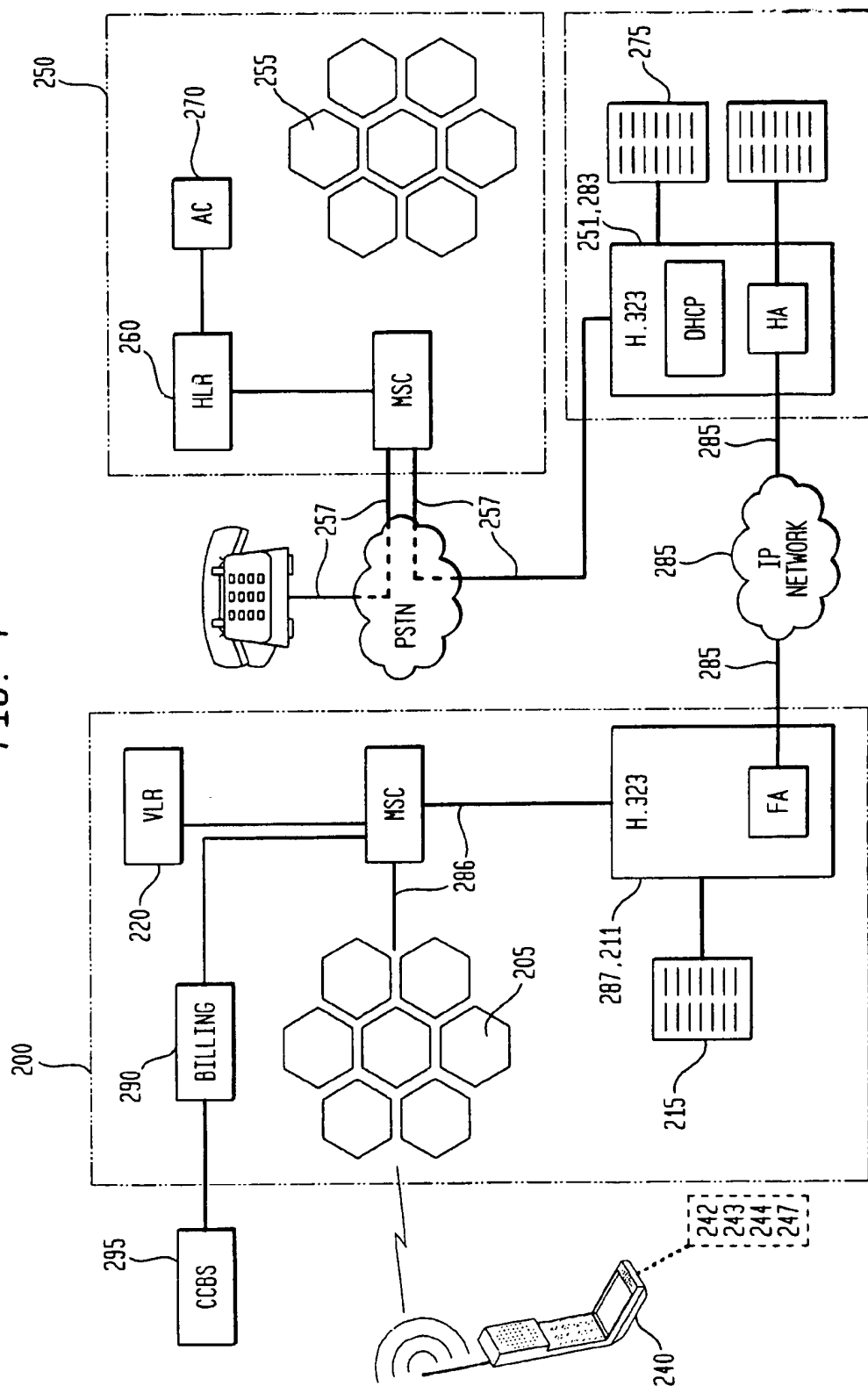


FIG. 5

520		550	
IP ADDRESSES		PHONE NUMBERS	
510	10.6.5.52	540	202 555 1772
	10.6.201.12		714 555 1934
	10.17.5.110		217 555 4128
530	⋮		⋮
215	⋮		⋮

FIG. 6

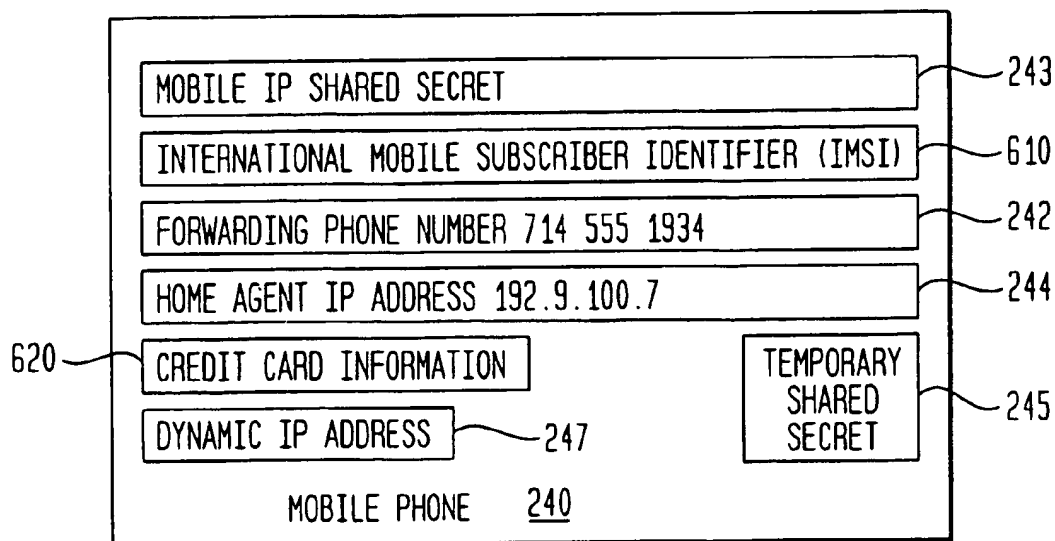
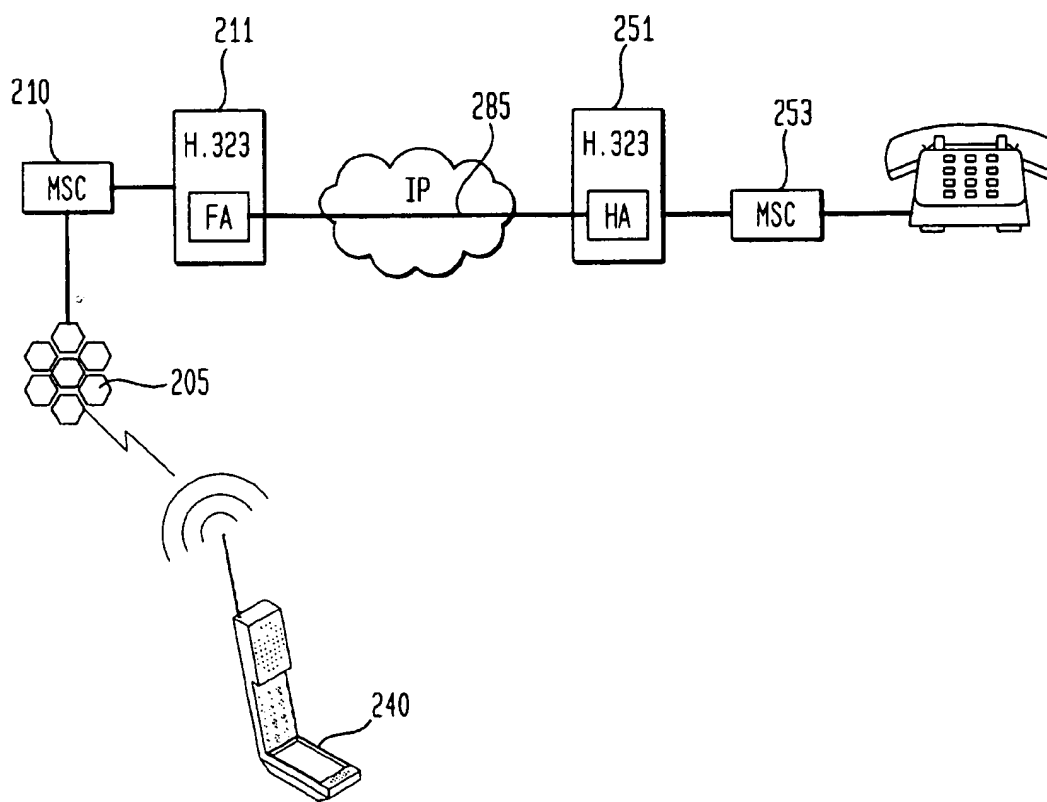


FIG. 7

720		750	
FORWARDING PHONE NUMBERS		IP ADDRESSES	
714	555 1900	10.6.201.40	
714	555 1920	UNASSIGNED	
710	714 555 1934	10.6.201.12	740
	714 555 2050	10.6.201.42	730
275	⋮	⋮	

FIG. 8



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DELIVERING CALLS TO GSM SUBSCRIBERS ROAMING TO CDMA NETWORKS VIA IP TUNNELS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to cellular call delivery services provided by cellular/PCS operators. Call delivery service permits a cellular subscriber to receive phone calls either in a home network (e.g., London) or while away from the home network (e.g., in Chicago).

Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSM) is a widely popular Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA)-based standard used in Europe, China, selected parts of the United States, and other parts of the world. TDMA is a digital wireless technology.

A subscriber who roams to Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) wireless networks may be denied cellular services even if the subscriber's mobile device is capable of dual-mode (CDMA or analog, and GSM) operation, and the subscriber has the ability to pay for cellular calls with his/her valid credit card. The basis for the denial of service is simply because there is no pre-existing relationship between the home GSM network and visited CDMA network for billing settlement.

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to cellular telephony and the use of Internet Protocol to replace traditional telephony infrastructure for roaming cellular users. This invention also relates to the field of providing mobile wireless telephone service for users roaming outside their own predefined service area. This invention also relates to the field of interoperability of CDMA and GSM/TDMA cellular networks.

2. Description of Related Art

A GSM MoU is an agreement between a consortium of GSM wireless service providers. For example, a subscriber of a first GSM service provider may roam to a service area controlled by a second GSM service provider. An established MoU allows the first GSM service provider to still serve the subscriber while that subscriber is in the service area corresponding to the second GSM service provider. In practice, the second GSM service provider gets paid a portion of the service/roaming charge the first GSM service provider charges the subscriber, which is one reason wireless "roaming charges" are so expensive.

Alternatively, a Local Number Portability (LNP) feature could be used. LNP allows a telephone subscriber to "port" his/her phone number when that subscriber relocates to a different region of the country, even when the local area code may be different (e.g., a subscriber may reallocate from Chicago to New York, but still keep the original phone number used in Chicago that has an area code of 312).

However, LNP updates are not dynamic by design and thus can have serious limitations. A subscriber who wants LNP typically will request that service by filling out a form. The phone company's administrative staff will manually process the form and make necessary updates of various

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databases to effect the requested LNP. Note that LNP is designed to support occasional change of location/re-location, and is typically done manually; thus, there is a scalability issue in practice.

Public Switched Telephony Network (PSTN) refers to the public phone networks as we know them. PSTN is composed of switches and T1/E1 trunks, central office, etc. PSTN uses circuit-switched technology, in which necessary resources are allocated (dedicated) for the duration of a phone call. An IP network (e.g., the Internet), in contrast, is composed of nodes of computers, servers, routers, and communications links, etc. It employs packet-switching technology that decomposes data (e.g., voice, web pages, an e-mail message) into IP packets. Each packet is then transmitted over an IP network to a destination identified by an IP address and reassembled at the destination. An IP transmission is completed without pre-allocating resources from point to point.

H.323 is a (long) list of standards that supports "voice over Internet"(or voice over IP) and multimedia over Internet. As of the date of this disclosure, the URL <http://www.databeam.com> has further information on the H.323 standards. H.323-based packet calls can bypass some portion of telephony infrastructure, but H.323 does not provide for mobility and radio resource usage is inefficient if IP packets are carried over the radio link.

Mobile IP is described by Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Request for Comments (RFC) number 2002. As of the date of this disclosure, RFC 2002 may be obtained from URL <http://nic.mil/ftp/rfc/rfc2002.txt>. Unlike H.323, Mobile IP does support packet mobility, but smooth handoffs—as smooth as circuit cellular voice—are not supported.

One known commercial use of Mobile IP is deployed by Nextel, a wireless service provider. Using a cellular mobile phone by Motorola Corporation of Schaumburg, Ill., under the tradename iDEN 1000, Nextel allows subscribers to access digital data from the Internet via Mobile IP.

The Diffie-Hellman algorithm is a math method allowing two parties to establish a temporary secret for secure transmission of information. Reference: Diffie, W. and Hellman, M., "New directions in cryptography," *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, Vol. IT-22, November 1976, pp. 644-654.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention addresses the above issues of denial of service by combining and integrating the proper pieces of circuit and packet, and that of wireless and wireline. This invention provides a way to bypass GSM MoU and PSTN so that a GSM user roaming into CDMA networks, having the ability to pay cellular calls with his/her credit card, can be provided with basic call delivery cellular services, and vice-versa.

These and other aspects and attributes of the present invention will be discussed with reference to the following drawings and accompanying specification.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 represents prior art, the typical infrastructure supporting call origination and call delivery;

FIG. 2 represents an infrastructure supporting the first step of call delivery in the present invention;

FIG. 3 represents an infrastructure supporting the second step of call delivery in the present invention;

FIG. 4 represents an infrastructure supporting the third step of call delivery in the present invention;

FIG. 5 illustrates a data structure supporting a mapping operation of the present invention in the visited wireless network;

FIG. 6 illustrates data structures in the user's mobile device utilized by the present invention;

FIG. 7 illustrates a data structure supporting a mapping operation of the present invention in the voice and data service provider's network; and

FIG. 8 illustrates the bypass function of the Mobile IP tunnel of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

While this invention is susceptible of embodiment in many different forms, there is shown in the drawings, and will be described herein in detail, specific embodiments thereof with the understanding that the present disclosure is to be considered as an exemplification of the principles of the invention and is not intended to limit the invention to the specific embodiments illustrated.

Cellular telephone users generally subscribe to a wireless service provider. The subscriber may use their mobile devices within the home wireless network served by their wireless service provider in exchange for subscription fees. However, users also may travel, and thus need to have their mobile devices operate outside of their home wireless networks as they visit other areas.

FIG. 1 shows a typical wireless infrastructure that provides cellular/PCS services like call origination and call delivery for a roaming mobile device. For call delivery, the visited network 100 tracks the location of a roaming user and the Visitors Location Register (VLR) 120 reports that location information via a control network to the Home Location Register (HLR) 160 of the home network 150. Control networks may include ANSI-41 and GSM MAP types of networks. An Authentication Center (AC) 170 in the home network 150 is used for user registration and authentication, e.g., checking to see, among other things, if the user has made payments. When a call 165 relayed from the Public Switched Telephony Network (PSTN) 180 to the home MSC 149 is to be delivered to a subscriber, the home Mobile Switching Center (MSC) 149 consults the HLR 160 to determine the current whereabouts of the current VLR 120, and the call is then directed via links 167; and the PSTN 180 to the visited Mobile Switching Center (MSC) 110 currently serving the mobile device.

A MSC is a telephone switch specialized for wireless and mobility support. A MSC performs various functions, including mobility management, call handoffs, call admission, call control, resource allocation, and so forth. The call is then relayed from the MSC 110 to base stations 105 and via wireless communications 143 to the mobile device 140.

Since the visited network 100 and home network 150 may be operated by different wireless operators, certain kinds of business roaming agreements are necessary for things like billing settlement. In GSM networks, a GSM Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) serves that purpose.

Table 1 summarizes the current cellular/PCS technologies and the network elements that are involved in call origination and call delivery.

TABLE 1

Cellular Value Proposition	Current Supporting Cellular/PCS Technologies
Wireless and mobility	Base stations, RF engineering, hard and soft handoffs
Wide Coverage Area	Automatic roaming across visited & home wireless networks using VLR/HLR/AC US: ANSI-41 and business roaming agreements GSM: GSM MAP and GSM Memorandum of Understandings
Reliable services of both voice/data call origination	Call origination: involves VLR, HLR, and AC for service qualification, user service profile, and billing. Call delivery: involves VLR and HLR for mobile location tracking,
voice/data call delivery	Temporary Local Directory Number (TLDN) assignment, call forwarding/routing, and billing.

A problem occurs when a GSM user, who roams to a CDMA (or TDMA) network, may not be provided with cellular services because there lacks a GSM Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) between the home GSM network and visited CDMA network. This is so even when the user's mobile device is capable of dual-mode (CDMA or analog, and GSM) operation and there is no technology barrier, and the user has the ability to pay for cellular calls (e.g., call delivery) with his/her valid credit card.

The present invention combines the following technical components to bypass GSM MoU and PSTN for call delivery: (1) use of Mobile IP to track the location of mobile users; (2) use of H.323-based voice-over-IP to transport packet voice over Mobile IP tunnels; (3) use of H.323 servers in the visited network to convert packet voice to circuit voice; (4) use of the user's credit card as a payment method; and (5) use of the Diffie-Hellman algorithm to encrypt the user's credit card information for over-the-air transmission.

The use of H.323 servers in the visited network to convert packet voice to circuit voice leverages the existing smooth handoffs capability of circuit cellular voice and the well-engineered CDMA/TDMA circuit-mode air interface that provides superior efficiency of radio resource usage. The conversion also allows the roamer to receive call delivery with an existing mobile device as opposed to having to purchase a new kind of "packet phone."

Many of the same reference numbers are used in FIGS. 2 through 8 to identify common features. It is to be understood that where the same number is used, it refers to the same feature in each of the drawings.

FIG. 2 shows the first step of call delivery, in one embodiment of the present invention, wherein prior to roaming, the mobile device 240 sets up call forwarding from the home wireless network 250 to a voice and data service provider's network 252. The voice and data service provider can be an Internet service provider (ISP). The voice and data service provider's network 252 comprises at least a Home H.323 server 251 that provides a telephone number 242 to the user's mobile device 240 for call forwarding. The Home H.323 server 251 also acts as Mobile IP home agent (HA) and provisions a Mobile IP shared secret 243 and the IP address 244 of the HA into the user's mobile device 240.

Note that the provisioning of the Mobile IP shared secret 243 can not be done via wireless communication 256 with base stations 255, because the Mobile IP shared secret will be revealed during such a transmission and will no longer be a secret. Mobile IP shared secret provisioning can be done through other means. In a preferred embodiment, when the

user subscribes to the voice and data service provider, the user will be informed of the IP address 244 of the HA in the voice and data service provider's network and the Mobile IP shared secret 243 assigned to him. This information may be accompanied with instructions how to enter this information into the user's mobile device as part of the subscription setup.

Home Agent (HA) and Foreign Agent (FA) are Mobile IP concepts and network elements introduced in RFC 2002. Their functionality and operation are described in detail in RFC 2002 and not detailed further herein.

FIG. 3 shows the second step of call delivery in one embodiment of the present invention, wherein the user's mobile device 240 is roaming in a visited wireless network 200. As the user powers on the mobile device 240, the mobile device registers with the visited wireless network 200, which may be any type of wireless network including cellular or PCS. This registration permits the visited wireless network 200 to track the mobile's location and perform call delivery, but does not imply conventional VLR 220/HLR 260 interaction. In the present invention, the roamer's HLR 260 and the roamer's AC 270 in the home wireless network 250 are not contacted for call delivery. The registration conveys the mobile device's International Mobile Subscriber Identifier (IMSI), the forwarding phone number 242 assigned by the voice and data service provider, and the IP address 244 of the HA to the visited MSC 210.

With the roamer's IMSI, forwarding number 242, and HA IP address 244, the visited MSC 210 identifies the mobile device 240 as a special device supporting the present invention. This special identification aborts the conventional VLR/HLR interaction. The visited MSC and the mobile device interact with each other to establish a temporary shared secret 245 using the Diffie-Hellman algorithm. This mechanism is also used in Cellular Digital Packet Data (CDPD) networks typically used for low speed packet data services. The user's credit card information is transmitted from the mobile device 240 to the visited wireless network 200 via wireless communication with base stations 205 using the established temporary shared secret 245. The shared secret 245 permits the sensitive information of the user's credit card information to be relayed to the visited wireless network 200 securely.

The credit card information can be entered by the user on the mobile device keypad, or via a swipe of the card through a card reader slot on the mobile device, or via some other means. In one embodiment, the credit card information is optionally stored within the mobile device. In another embodiment, the credit card information must be entered by the user for each use. In another embodiment, the user selects a credit card number from a list to be used for the outgoing call. The credit card number may belong to the user, the user's employer, or another third party. The credit card number thus relayed securely is then verified by the visited, network's billing server to ensure it is valid, using methods familiar to anyone exposed to credit card payments and transactions.

After credit card verification, the visited MSC 210 contacts the visited H.323 server 211. The visited H.323 server 211 also acts as a Mobile IP foreign agent (FA) which contacts the Home H.323 server 251 via the HA IP address 244. The Home H.323 server 251 provides Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) service resulting in a dynamic IP address 247.

DHCP is covered by RFC 2131. As of the date of this disclosure, RFC 2131 may be obtained from URL <http://nic.mil/ftp/rfc/rfc2131.txt>.

The major use of DHCP is to support dynamic IP address assignment. For example, an ISP (Internet Service Provider) can use DHCP to dynamically assign an IP address to a subscriber after he/she logs in over a dial-up connection; once the session is over, the IP address is recycled for other dial-in users.

The dynamic IP address 247 from the Home H.323 server 251 is relayed back to the FA of the visited H.323 server 211. The FA relays the dynamic IP address to the user's mobile device 240 during the IP Configuration Protocol (IPCP) phase of Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) initialization.

The mobile device initiates a Mobile IP registration request with the HA in the Home H.323 server 251 via the FA in the visited H.323 server 211. The HA authenticates the request using the Mobile IP shared secret 243 provisioned by the HA in the first step of the present invention, prior to the user roaming. Per the MD5 algorithm of Mobile IP, the Mobile IP registration request from the mobile device is signed using the provisioned Mobile IP shared secret 243, which permits verification of both message content and sender by the HA. A detailed technical discussion of the MD5 algorithm may be located in RFC 2002 which pertains to support of Mobile IP. Successful verification and receipt of an acknowledgement response by the mobile device from the HA completes the establishment of a Mobile IP tunnel 285.

Upon successful setup of the Mobile IP tunnel 285, the Home H.323 server 251 in the voice and data service provider's network 252 updates the HA mobility binding table 276 associated with Mobile IP and updates its phone-number-to-IP-address table 275 that maps the user's forwarding phone number 242 provided by the Home H.323 server 251 to the dynamic IP address 247 now assigned to the user's mobile device 240. The visited H.323 server 211 in the visited wireless network 200 similarly updates its IP-address-to-phone-number table 215 that maps the dynamic IP address 247 of the mobile to the forwarding phone number 242 provided by the Home H.323 server 251. When establishment of a Mobile IP tunnel 285 is complete, the HA mobility binding table 276 is updated, and both H.323 servers' tables 215, 275 are updated, the setup for the GSM MoU and the PSTN bypass of the present invention is complete.

The Mobile IP tunnel 285 is one example of bypassing the usual interaction between the VLR and the HLR/AC, as well as bypassing the PSTN, both as used in the present invention. In a preferred embodiment, the Mobile IP tunnel is established within a public IP network such as the Internet. In alternate embodiments, the Mobile IP tunnel may be established within a private IP network, or a combination of both private networks and the public Internet. In another embodiment, the Mobile IP tunnel may be layered on top of a different network infrastructure, in a manner consistent with current network practice.

An IP tunnel is a specific case of a general network tunnel, which typically has two ends, and encapsulates packets of a first protocol for transmission from the first end to the second end of the tunnel using a potentially different second protocol for actual routing and delivery. Setting up a network tunnel generally involves a server or agent setting up each end prior to use. IP tunneling allows Internet standard-based routers to route IP packets from one end of a tunnel to the other end of the tunnel, regardless of the topology of the underlying IP network. A detailed technical discussion of IP tunneling may be located in RFC 2002 which pertains to support of Mobile IP.

FIG. 4 shows the last step of call delivery in one embodiment of the present invention. An incoming call 257 to the user is forwarded by the home wireless network 250 to the forwarding phone number 242 associated with the Home H.323 server 251. The Home H.323 server 251 looks up the phone number 242 in its phone-number-to-IP-address table 275 and finds the dynamic IP address 247 that has been assigned to the user's mobile device 240.

The Home H.323 server 251 converts 283 the circuit call 257 to a packet call (i.e., voice-over-IP) and forwards the packets to the HA. The HA forwards the packets over the Mobile IP tunnel 285 established in the second step to the FA in the visited H.323 server 211.

The visited H.323 server 211 in the visited wireless network 200 looks up the dynamic IP address 247 in its IP-address-to-phone-number table 215 and finds the forwarding phone number 242 that has been assigned to the user's mobile device 240 for roaming.

The FA in the visited H.323 server 211 converts 287 the packets received via the Mobile IP tunnel 285 to a circuit call 286 and relays the circuit call to the visited MSC 210. The visited MSC 210 forwards the circuit call 286 on to the wireless base stations 205 for over-the-air transmission to the user's mobile device 240.

In a preferred embodiment, both the conversions 283, 287 by H.323 servers 251, 211 are performed in each of the respective home and visited wireless provider's networks 250, 200, thus supporting speaking and listening by both the calling and called party. Specifically, the Home H.323 server 251 performs conversion 283 for circuit voice originating from a call 257 to be conveyed via the Mobile IP tunnel 285, and performs conversion 287 for voice packet data conveyed via Mobile IP tunnel 285 from the user to be delivered as circuit voice to caller 257. Similarly, the visited H.323 server 211 performs conversion 283 for circuit voice originating from the wireless connection with the base stations 205 to be conveyed via the Mobile IP tunnel 285, and performs conversion 287 for voice packet data conveyed via Mobile IP tunnel 285 from the call 257 to be delivered via wireless communication from base stations 205 to the user's mobile device 240. In this embodiment, packet data is conveyed via the Mobile IP tunnel 285, and is converted appropriately to circuit calls by the H.323 servers 251, 211 at each end appropriately for interface to wireless (or in the case of the home wireless network 250, wireline) communications.

When the call is terminated, billing information is collected in the visited network's billing server 290. The billing information may include but is not limited to at least one of the duration of the call, which credit card number was used, identification of the IP tunnel, time and date, and other kinds of billing data. At the end of a billing period, or when the accumulated bill amount exceeds some predetermined amount, or when additional services or processing fees may be imposed, or at some other preferential time, the visited network's billing server 290 interacts with the credit card's billing server 295 for billing settlement, using the traditional and well-understood practices for accounting for services rendered. In the present invention, the roamer's HLR 260 and the roamer's AC 270 are not contacted for call delivery by the VLR 220.

FIG. 5 illustrates a data structure supporting the IP-address-to-phone-number table 215 of the present invention in the visited wireless network. The table 215 consists of associated pairs of entries, wherein each line in the table contains one IP address and one phone number. A selected IP address 510 is used to index within the list of IP addresses

520 in the table, thus selecting a particular record or line 530. The corresponding phone number 540 in the line 530 is the data retrieved from the table 215. The IP address 510 is said to "map to" the forwarding phone number 540, uniquely from the list of phone numbers 550 in the table 215.

FIG. 6 illustrates data structures in the user's mobile device 240 required for the present invention. One of the data structures is the International Mobile Subscriber Identifier (IMSI) 610 that uniquely identifies the user's mobile device. Provisioned into the mobile device by the voice and data service provider are the forwarding phone number 242, the Mobile IP shared secret 243, and the IP address 244 of the HA in the Home H.323 server. In the second step of the present invention, the temporary shared secret 245 is established within the mobile device 240 to permit the sensitive information of the user's credit card information to be relayed to the visited network securely. Credit card information 620 may be stored within the user's mobile device, or it may be entered by the user as required. The leased dynamic IP address 247 is used to establish the second end of the Mobile IP tunnel 285 as shown in FIG. 8.

FIG. 7 illustrates a data structure supporting the phone-number-to-IP-address table 275 as shown in FIGS. 3 and 4 of the present invention in the home wireless network. The table 275 consists of associated pairs of entries, wherein each line in the table contains one phone number and one IP address. A selected phone number 710 is used to index (within the list of phone numbers 720) in the table, thus selecting a particular record or line 730. The corresponding IP address 740 in the line 730 is the data retrieved from the table 275. The forwarding phone number 710 is said to "map to" the IP address 740, uniquely from the list of IP addresses 750 in the table 275.

FIG. 8 illustrates the bypass function of the Mobile IP tunnel of the present invention. The home MSC 253 in the home wireless network 250 relays the inbound call 257 to the Home H.323 server 251, which converts (283, 287) the call to packets that are conveyed via the IP tunnel 285. The packet data is converted (283, 287) back to circuit voice by the visited H.323 server 211 and conveyed to the visited MSC 210 for over the air transmission from the base stations 205 to the mobile device 240. The normal interaction of the VLR and the HLR/AC is not used, effectively bypassing the network traditionally used for such interaction. The Public Switched Telephony Network (PSTN) as traditionally used to convey calls between wireless service providers (e.g., home wireless network 250 and visited wireless network 200 of FIG. 4) is not used in the present invention, and is thus also effectively bypassed. As a result, this invention provides for call delivery to GSM subscribers who roam from their home GSM networks to CDMA networks, by using IP tunnels to convey the calls to be delivered.

The present invention includes a method to bypass Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSM) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide basic cellular call delivery service. The basic cellular call delivery service uses an Internet Protocol (IP) tunnel. The IP tunnel includes a first end and a second end. A user having a mobile device subscribes to a home wireless service provider, and that provider serves a home wireless network in which the user can place and receive cellular calls. When that user travels outside of their home wireless network, they are said to be roaming.

When roaming, a user may be in an area served by a visited wireless service provider. The visited provider serves a visited wireless network distinct and separate from the

home wireless network. In the situation where there does not exist a pre-arranged GSM MoU between the home wireless service provider and the visited wireless service provider the user can still obtain basic call delivery service if the user has a payment means to pay for the basic visited wireless network call delivery service.

A step in the preferred embodiment of the present method of the invention has the user registering with a voice and data service provider. This registration establishes the first end of the IP tunnel. This registration uses a home H.323 server in the voice and data service provider's network. The home H.323 server in the voice and data service provider's network is enhanced to further have the ability to provide Home Agent (HA) service.

Another step in the preferred embodiment of the present method of the invention identifies the user's payment means to the visited wireless service provider. The typical payment means is a credit card, and the credit card information must be securely transmitted from the user to the visited wireless service provider. To securely transmit this information, the mobile device and the visited wireless network establish a Diffie-Hellman temporary shared secret. With the secret in place, the user's credit card information can be transmitted securely to the visited wireless service provider, and upon receipt the visited wireless service provider can verify the validity of the user's credit card information.

Another step in the preferred embodiment of the present method of the invention is to register with an H.323 server in the visited wireless network. The H.323 server in the visited wireless network further has the ability to provide Foreign Agent (FA) service. This registration permits the second end of the IP tunnel to be established to the user's mobile device.

Another step of the preferred embodiment of the present method of the invention is to deliver calls to the user's mobile device, with the calls being conveyed as data via the IP tunnel. As services are rendered to the user, billing information is compiled and collected by the visited wireless service provider. The visited wireless service provider then bills the user based on the billing information collected and the user's credit card information.

The credit card information for the user can be stored within the mobile device by someone other than the user. Alternatively, it can be entered by the user directly. In a preferred embodiment, the credit card information is keyed into the mobile device. In another embodiment, the credit card information can be scanned or swiped into the mobile device using a card reader or similar apparatus.

The method of the present invention to establish the first end of the IP tunnel includes setting up call forwarding in the home wireless network to the voice and data service provider. This may involve obtaining a telephone number for forwarding, and/or obtaining an IP address corresponding to the Home Agent (HA). Additionally, a Mobile IP shared secret is set up with the voice and data service provider.

The method of the present invention to register with the visited wireless service provider to establish the second end of the IP tunnel further includes obtaining a dynamic IP address from the home H.323 server by the visited H.323 server using DHCP. This dynamic IP address is then relayed from the visited H.323 server via the visited wireless network to the user's mobile device. The user's mobile device can authenticate the Mobile IP connection by using the Mobile IP shared secret and the response from the HA of the home H.323 server. When complete and authenticated, the IP tunnel is established by the user's mobile device and then

several tables are updated. These tables to be updated include a phone-number-to-IP-address table in the home H.323 server, a mobility binding table in the HA, and an IP-address-to-phone-number table in the visited H.323 server.

The method of the present invention to deliver calls to the user's mobile device via the IP tunnel further includes converting a circuit call to packets by the home H.323 server. These packets are forwarded over the IP tunnel, reassembled at the far end by the visited H.323 server, and then converted back into a circuit call for transmission to the user's mobile device. The transmission occurs in the visited wireless network. In a similar fashion to support bidirectional communication typical of a telephone conversation, the visited wireless network receives transmissions from the user's mobile device as a circuit call. This call is then converted to packets by the visited H.323 server. These packets are forwarded over the IP tunnel, reassembled at the far end by the home H.323 server, and then converted back into a circuit call for eventual connection to the entity that originally placed the call in the first place.

The method of the present invention to provide basic cellular call delivery service for a user having a mobile device and subscribing to a home wireless service provider serving a home wireless network is used when the user roams to visit an area served by a visited wireless service provider serving a visited wireless network distinct and separate from the home wireless network. If the user has a payment means to pay for the basic cellular call delivery service, the method includes establishing an Internet Protocol (IP) tunnel, having a first end and a second end. This tunnel is used for conveying IP packets in both directions between the first end and the second end.

Calls are delivered to the user's mobile device via the IP tunnel. Billing information is collected from the visited wireless network by the visited wireless service provider. The user is billed by the visited wireless service provider responsive to the billing information collected and the user's identified payment means. Accordingly, the user's payment means is identified to the visited wireless service provider. Setup of the IP tunnel is started by registering with the voice and data service provider to establish the first end of the IP tunnel at the HA within the voice and data service provider. Then the user registers with the visited wireless service provider to establish the second end of the IP tunnel at the FA.

The user's payment means may include credit card information. The step of identifying the user's payment means to the visited wireless service provider may include establishing a Diffie-Hellman temporary shared secret between the user's mobile device and the visited wireless network. The Diffie-Hellman temporary shared secret permits securely transmitting the user's credit card information to the visited wireless service provider via the visited wireless network. The visited wireless service provider can then verify the validity of the user's credit card information.

Registering with the user's home wireless service provider to establish the first end of the IP tunnel within the voice and data service provider's network may include setting up call forwarding in the home wireless network to the voice and data service provider's network. It may also include obtaining a Mobile IP shared secret from the voice and data service provider. Setting up call forwarding in the home wireless network may include obtaining a telephone number for call forwarding from the voice and data service provider. It may also include providing a home H.323 server

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by the voice and data service provider, and providing a Home Agent (HA) function within the home H.323 server. Generally, the user must obtain the IP address of the HA in the home H.323 server in the voice and data service provider's network. This address may be stored within the user's mobile device.

The step of registering with the visited wireless service provider to establish the second end of the IP tunnel may include providing a visited H.323 server in the visited wireless network. This visited H.323 server generally provides a Foreign Agent (FA) function. Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) in the voice and data service provider's network is used to obtain a dynamic IP address. The dynamic IP address is relayed from the HA via the visited wireless network to the user's mobile device. The user's mobile device authenticates the connection using the Mobile IP shared secret. Then the IP tunnel is established by the user's mobile device, and a number of tables are updated, including a phone-number-to-IP-address table in the home H.323 server, a mobility binding table in the HA, and an IP-address-to-phone-number table in the visited H.323 server as previously disclosed.

The system of the present invention provides basic cellular call delivery service via an Internet Protocol (IP) tunnel. The IP tunnel has a first end and a second end. A user having a mobile device and subscribing to a home wireless service provider serving a home wireless network can travel outside of the home wireless network. When the user is travelling within the boundaries of a visited wireless network, the user is said to be roaming. If there does not exist a pre-arranged Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSM) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the home wireless service provider and a visited wireless service provider, the user can obtain basic call delivery service if that user has a means to pay for that service.

The system of the present invention may include a payment identification means for identifying the user's payment means to the visited wireless service provider. It also may include delivery service means for providing basic cellular call delivery service via the IP tunnel, responsive to the payment identification means. The delivery service means further may include a first end means to establish the first end of the IP tunnel within the home wireless network. The delivery service means further may include a second end means to establish the second end of the IP tunnel within the user's mobile device in the visited wireless network. The delivery service means further may include a circuit conversion means to convert circuit calls to the mobile device to packets for conveyance via the IP tunnel. The delivery service means further may include a packet conversion means to convert the packets conveyed by the IP tunnel to a circuit call.

The system of the present invention may include a home H.323 server in the voice and data service provider's network, and a visited H.323 server in the visited wireless network. The home H.323 server may include a phone-number-to-IP-address table and a mobility binding table. The visited H.323 server may include an IP-address-to-phone-number table. The system may include means to update the above disclosed tables, and any others that may be necessary.

The system of the present invention may include forwarding means for setting up call forwarding from the home wireless network to a voice and data service provider's network. The forwarding means is typically responsive to

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the user's mobile device. The system may also include mobile shared secret means for obtaining a Mobile IP shared secret from the voice and data service provider. The mobile shared secret means is also typically responsive to the user's mobile device. Typically, a telephone number for call forwarding is provided by the voice and data service provider responsive to the user's mobile device. Also, the IP address of the HA in the home H.323 server in the voice and data service provider is provided to the user's mobile device.

The system of the present invention may include DHCP means for obtaining a dynamic IP address from the home H.323 server. Typically, the dynamic IP address is relayed from the home H.323 server via the visited wireless network to the user's mobile device. The user's mobile device may then authenticate the connection by using the mobile shared secret means. Authenticating the connection permits an IP tunnel to be established. The system also monitors, collects, and compiles billing information in the visited wireless network for services rendered. This information can be used to bill the user's credit cards.

The system of the present invention can use credit card information entered into the user's mobile device. This information may be entered by other than the user. Alternatively, it can be keyed into the mobile device by the user for each use, or stored for a user selectable time period. Another way to enter the information is for the user to scan or swipe a credit card in an appropriate reader apparatus in the mobile device. The user's payment information can be relayed securely to the visited wireless service provider through the use of a Diffie-Hellman temporary shared secret.

From the foregoing, it will be observed that numerous variations and modifications may be effected without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. It is to be understood that no limitation with respect to the specific apparatus illustrated herein is intended or should be inferred. It is, of course, intended to cover by the appended claims all such modifications as fall within the scope of the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method to bypass Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSM) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide basic cellular call delivery service via an Internet Protocol (IP) tunnel comprising a first end and a second end, for a user having a mobile device and subscribing to a home wireless service provider serving a home wireless network, wherein the user roams to visit an area served by a visited wireless service provider serving a visited wireless network distinct and separate from the home wireless network, wherein there does not exist a pre-arranged GSM MoU between the home wireless service provider and the visited wireless service provider, and wherein the user has a payment means to pay for the basic cellular call delivery service, the method comprising:

registering with a network of a voice and data service provider's network to establish the first end of the IP tunnel within a Home Agent (HA) in a home H.323 server;

identifying the user's payment means to the visited wireless network;

registering with a visited H.323 server comprising at least a Foreign Agent (FA) in the visited wireless network to establish the second end of the IP tunnel within the FA; and

delivering calls to the user's mobile device via the IP tunnel,

wherein the step of registering with a voice and data service provider's network to establish the first end of the IP tunnel within a Home Agent (HA) in a home H.323 server further comprises:

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setting up call forwarding from the home wireless network to the voice and data service provider's network; and
 obtaining a Mobile IP shared secret from the voice and data service provider's network;
 wherein the step of setting up call forwarding from the home wireless network to the voice and data service provider's network further comprises:
 obtaining a telephone number for call forwarding from the voice and data service provider; and
 obtaining the IP address of the HA in the home H.323 server from the voice and data service provider,
 wherein the step of registering with a visited H.323 server in the visited wireless network to establish the second end of the IP tunnel within the FA further comprises:
 obtaining a dynamic IP address from the home H.323 server by the visited H.323 server using Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP);
 relaying the dynamic IP address from the home H.323 server via the visited wireless network to the user's mobile device;
 authenticating the connection by the user's mobile device using the Mobile IP shared secret; and
 establishing the IP tunnel by the user's mobile device.
 2. The method as in claim 1, further comprising:
 collecting billing information from the visited wireless network by the visited wireless service provider; and
 billing the user by the visited wireless service provider responsive to the billing information collected and the user's identified payment means.
 3. The method as in claim 2, wherein the user's payment means comprises credit card information and wherein the step of identifying the user's payment means to the visited wireless network further comprises:
 establishing a Diffie-Hellman temporary shared secret between the user's mobile device and the visited wireless network;
 securely transmitting the user's credit card information to the visited wireless service provider via the visited wireless network using the temporary shared secret; and
 verifying the validity of the user's credit card information by the visited wireless network.
 4. The method as in claim 3, wherein the step of securely transmitting the user's credit card information further comprises retrieving previously stored credit card information within the user's mobile device.
 5. The method as in claim 3, wherein the step of securely transmitting the user's credit card information further comprises the user entering credit card information into the user's mobile device.
 6. The method as in claim 1, wherein the step of establishing the IP tunnel further comprises:
 updating a phone-number-to-IP-address table in the home H.323 server;
 updating a mobility binding table in the HA; and
 updating a IP-address-to-phone-number table in the visited H.323 server.
 7. The method as in claim 1, wherein the step of delivering calls to the user's mobile device via the IP tunnel further comprises:
 conversion of a circuit call for delivery to packets by the home H.323 server;
 forwarding the packets via the established IP tunnel;

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reassembling the forwarded packets into a reassembled circuit call by the visited H.323 server; and
 transmitting the reassembled circuit call over-the-air to the user's mobile device via the visited wireless network.
 8. The method as in claim 7, wherein the step of delivering calls to the user's mobile device via the IP tunnel further comprises:
 receiving a response over-the-air from the user's mobile device by the visited wireless network;
 conversion of the response to packets by the visited H.323 server;
 forwarding the packets via the established IP tunnel; and
 reassembling the forwarded packets into a reassembled circuit call response for delivery by the home H.323 server.
 9. The method as in claim 8, wherein the user's payment means comprises credit card information and wherein the step of identifying the user's payment means to the visited wireless network further comprises:
 establishing a Diffie-Hellman temporary shared secret between the user's mobile device and the visited wireless network;
 securely transmitting the user's credit card information to the visited wireless service provider via the visited wireless network using the temporary shared secret; and
 verifying the validity of the user's credit card information by the visited wireless network.
 10. The method as in claim 9, wherein the step of securely transmitting the user's credit card information further comprises retrieving previously stored credit card information within the user's mobile device.
 11. The method as in claim 9, wherein the step of securely transmitting the user's credit card information further comprises the user entering credit card information into the user's mobile device.
 12. A method to provide basic cellular call delivery service for a user having a mobile device and subscribing to a home wireless service provider serving a home wireless network, wherein the user roams to visit an area served by a visited wireless service provider serving a visited wireless network distinct and separate from the home wireless network, and wherein the user has a payment means to pay for the basic cellular call delivery service, the method comprising:
 establishing an Internet Protocol (IP) tunnel, having a first end and a second end, for conveying IP packets in both directions between the first end and the second end;
 delivering calls to the user's mobile device via the IP tunnel;
 collecting billing information from the visited wireless network by the visited wireless service provider; and
 billing the user by the visited wireless service provider responsive to the billing information collected and the user's identified payment means;
 wherein the step of establishing the IP tunnel further comprises the method:
 registering with a voice and data service provider's network to establish the first end of the IP tunnel;
 identifying the user's payment means to the visited wireless network; and
 registering with the visited wireless network to establish the second end of the IP tunnel,

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wherein the step of registering with a voice and data service provider's network to establish the first end of the IP tunnel further comprises:

- setting up call forwarding from the home wireless network to the voice and data service provider's network; and
 - obtaining a Mobile IP shared secret from the voice and data service provider,
- wherein the step of setting up call forwarding from the home wireless network to the voice and data service provider's network further comprises:
- obtaining a telephone number for call forwarding from the voice and data service provider;
 - providing a home H.323 server in the voice and data service provider's network;
 - providing a Home Agent (HA) function within the home H.323 server;
 - obtaining the IP address of the HA in the home H.323 server; and
 - storing the IP address of the HA in the user's mobile device,

wherein the step of registering with the visited wireless network to establish the second end of the IP tunnel within the user's mobile device further comprises:

- providing a visited H.323 server in the visited wireless network;
- providing a Foreign Agent (FA) function within the visited H.323 server;
- obtaining a dynamic IP address from the HA by the FA using Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP);
- relaying the dynamic IP address from the HA via the visited wireless network to the user's mobile device;
- authenticating the connection by the user's mobile device using the Mobile IP shared secret; and
- establishing the IP tunnel by the user's mobile device.

13. The method as in claim 12, wherein the step of establishing the IP tunnel further comprises:

- updating a phone-number-to-IP-address table in the home H.323 server;
- updating a mobility binding table in the HA; and
- updating a IP-address-to-phone-number table in the visited H.323 server.

14. The method as in claim 12, wherein the step of delivering calls to the user's mobile device via the IP tunnel further comprises:

- conversion of a circuit call for delivery to packets by the home H.323 server;
- forwarding the packets via the established IP tunnel;
- reassembling the forwarded packets into a reassembled circuit call by the visited H.323 server; and
- transmitting the reassembled circuit call over-the-air to the user's mobile device via the visited wireless network.

15. The method as in claim 14, wherein the step of delivering calls to the user's mobile device via the IP tunnel further comprises:

- receiving a response over-the-air from the user's mobile device by the visited wireless network;
- conversion of the response to packets by the visited H.323 server;
- forwarding the packets via the established IP tunnel; and
- reassembling the forwarded packets into a reassembled circuit call response for delivery by the home H.323 server.

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16. A system to provide basic cellular call delivery service via an Internet Protocol (IP) tunnel comprising a first end and a second end, for a user having a mobile device and subscribing to a home wireless service provider serving a home wireless network, wherein the user roams to visit an area served by a visited wireless service provider serving a visited wireless network distinct and separate from the home wireless network, wherein there does not exist a pre-arranged Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSM) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the home wireless service provider and the visited wireless service provider, and wherein the user has a payment means to pay for the basic cellular call delivery service, the system comprising:

payment identification means for identifying the user's payment means to the visited wireless network; and
 delivery service means for providing basic wireless call delivery service via the IP tunnel, responsive to the payment identification means, wherein the delivery service means further comprises:

first end means to establish the first end of the IP tunnel within a voice and data service provider's network;
 second end means to establish the second end of the IP tunnel within the visited wireless network;
 circuit conversion means to convert circuit calls to the mobile device to packets for transport via the IP tunnel; and

packet conversion means to convert the packets conveyed by the IP tunnel to a circuit call,

wherein the delivery service means further comprises:

- a home H.323 server in the voice and data service provider's network, the home H.323 server further comprising at least a Home Agent (HA);
- a visited H.323 server in the visited wireless network, the visited H.323 server further comprising at least a Foreign Agent (FA);
- a phone-number-to-IP-address table in the home H.323 server;
- a mobility binding table in the HA; and
- an IP-address-to-phone-number table in the visited H.323 server, the system, further comprising:
 means to update the phone-number-to-IP-address table;
 means to update the mobility binding table; and
 means to update the IP-address-to-phone-number table.

17. The system as in claim 16, wherein the first end means further comprises:

forwarding means for setting up call forwarding from the home wireless network to the voice and data service provider's network responsive to the user's mobile device; and

mobile shared secret means for obtaining a Mobile IP shared secret from the voice and data service provider responsive to the user's mobile device.

18. The system as in claim 17, wherein the forwarding means further comprises:

forwarding number means for obtaining a telephone number for call forwarding from the home wireless network responsive to the user's mobile device; and

IP means for obtaining the IP address of the HA in the home H.323 server in the voice and data service provider's network responsive to the user's mobile device.

19. The system as in claim 18, wherein the second end means further comprises:

Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) means for obtaining a dynamic IP address from the home H.323 server responsive to the IP means;

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relay means for relaying the dynamic IP address from the home H.323 server via the visited wireless network responsive to the user's mobile device;

authentication means for authenticating the connection by the user's mobile device responsive to the mobile shared secret means; and

tunnel means for establishing the IP tunnel responsive to the first end means and the second end means.

20. The system as in claim 16, further comprising

collection means for collecting billing information from the visited wireless network by the visited wireless service provider responsive to the delivery service means; and

billing means for billing the user by the visited wireless service provider responsive to the collection means and the payment identification means.

21. The system as in claim 16, wherein the user's payment means further comprises credit card information, and wherein the payment identification means further comprises:

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payment shared secret means for establishing a Diffie-Hellman temporary shared secret between the user's mobile device and the visited wireless network;

secure transmission means for securely transmitting the user's credit card information to the visited wireless service provider via the visited wireless network responsive to the payment shared secret means; and

verification means for verifying the validity of the user's credit card information by the visited wireless network responsive to the secure transmission means.

22. The system as in claim 21, wherein the credit card information is stored within the user's mobile device.

23. The system as in claim 21, wherein the user's mobile device further comprises data entry means to enter the user's credit card information to the user's mobile device.

24. The system as in claim 23, wherein the data entry means comprises a keypad.

25. The system as in claim 23, wherein the data entry means comprises a card reader.

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